



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 45

TO: Helen Bottcher – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Marko Adzic – Teck American Incorporated (Teck)

DATE: April 12, 2010

FILE NO: 1-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 45 Month Ending March 2010

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

On the 24th of March EPA approved the compositing and analysis of remaining fish tissue samples (i.e., small- and medium size classes). As such, all fish tissue samples are currently being analyzed by the laboratories with validated fish tissue data anticipated being available in late June 2010.

Based on the beach reconnaissance conducted with the EPA in late March and despite the forecasted minimal drawdown, five beaches were identified as available for sampling in 2010. These beaches include: 1) Dalles Orchard, 2) China Bend, 3) Summer Island, 4) Barnaby Island, and 5) Northport Boat Launch. With the exception of Dalles Orchard and the Northport Boat Launch where the sampling design for surface samples will be modified from five composites of 12 samples per composite (5×12) to three composites of 12 samples per composite (3×12), the sampling design remains unchanged from the March 2009 Quality Assurance project Plan (QAPP) for China Bend, Summer Island, and Barnaby Island. Minor modifications at China Bend, Summer Island, and Barnaby Island are however needed to refine the sampling area (i.e., polygon) so that only fine-grained sediments are targeted. Teck continues to work with the EPA to ensure that the above-mentioned five beaches can be sampled during the week of April 26th. Following 2010 beach sediment sampling activities, Teck will continue to work with the EPA to ensure that any modifications that may be required at other beaches identified within the 2009 QAPP, are identified and implemented prior to subsequent sampling activities in 2011.

Transect sampling for the 2nd event of the surface water sampling began on the 6th of April and will continue through to the week of April 19th.

Two additional QAPPs have been submitted for review and approval. They include: 1) a revised methods development QAPP which focuses only on activities associated with future sediment bioassays using early life-stages (ELS) of white sturgeon; and 2) a QAPP to conduct sediment toxicity tests using ELS of white sturgeon. Any and all permit applications for the above-mentioned studies have been submitted to the respective agencies and participating parties for processing. As requested, in the revised methods development QAPP, any and all discussions associated with methods development work associated for sediments was removed and will be submitted under separate cover. Teck will continue to work with EPA and provide clarifications associated with methods development work for sediments. Teck continues to work hard with EPA to ensure that both the sediment and sturgeon programs proceed in 2010.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.